



Village of Savoy

**Robert C. McCleary Municipal Center
611 North Dunlap Avenue
Savoy, IL**

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>MINUTES OF</u> <u>BOARD OF TRUSTEE STUDY SESSION</u></p>
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DATE: July 8, 2020

PLACE: ROBERT C. MCCLEARY MUNICIPAL CENTER
611 North Dunlap Avenue
Savoy, IL 61874

TRUSTEES PRESENT: President Joan E. Dykstra, Trustees John Brown,
Dee Shonkwiler, and Bill Vavrik

TRUSTEES PRESENT
VIA VOICE

CONFERENCE CALL: Trustees Jan Niccum and Heather Mangian

TRUSTEES ABSENT: A. J. Ruggieri

OFFICERS AND

PERSONNEL PRESENT: Billie Jean Krueger, Village Clerk
Dennis Donaldson, Village Treasurer

GUESTS PRESENTS: Reg Ankrom, SIMEC

CONVENED: 7:00 P.M.

ADJOURNED: 9:00 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL TAKEN

Chairman Brown called the monthly open and public Board of Trustees Study Session to order at 7:00 p.m. Roll was called of President Dykstra and the Trustees, with all answering present, Trustees Niccum and Mangian answering present via voice conference call, and Trustee Ruggieri was absent, and a quorum declared.

2. BUSINESS:

A. ELECTRIC AGGREGATION – SIMEC

Reg Ankron, Account Executive, from SIMEC was present to give a power point presentation about SIMEC, LLC, an Illinois limited liability company headquartered in Quincy, IL. He stated it was a stand-alone company, loyal only to their communities and they had developed electric aggregation programs for 52 downstate Illinois municipalities with a 100% success rate and they had experience, expertise, and ethics.

President Dykstra stated that she had started a subcommittee of herself, Trustee Shonkwiler, and Dennis Donaldson to review the Electric Aggregation Contract for Services the Village presently had with Good Energy that is due to expire December 31, 2020. She stated Staff was contacted last month through emails from the contact person in New York and she was not comfortable with this contact person because she did not think they followed up and the subcommittee believes that they needed a better understanding of how electric aggregation affects the residents of Savoy.

Trustee Shonkwiler stated that Good Energy was demanding that Savoy sign a contract when the contract did not end until December 31, 2020.

President Dykstra then requested information from SIMEC, since she was familiar with Reg Ankron and several other local communities had contracts with SIMEC.

Ankron then presented the power point and a Sample Timeline of Steps for a Savoy Municipal Electric Aggregation Initiative showing that a Service Agreement and a Contract Execution Agreement could be presented to the Board as early as 7-15-2020 or 8-5-2020.

President Dykstra stated that if a local community could get their electricity amount less from Ameren, then SIMEC would so notify that community,

Trustee Brown asked what Savoy is paying now. Ankron stated Ameren price is 4.39 and Homefield Energy is 5.62.

Trustee Niccum asked Ankron if he had any employees working for SIMEC from Champaign County. Ankron said none and they have their offices in Quincy, IL and they are serving five or six local communities.

B. HOME RULE DISCUSSION

Chairman Brown asked Trustee Niccum to lead this discussion.

Trustee Niccum made a motion to direct Staff to prepare an Ordinance for a referendum to be placed on the General Election November 2020 Ballot to designate the Village of Savoy a “home rule” community to be acted upon at the Board of Trustees meeting of 8-5-2020, so that it can be filed with the County Clerk’s Office by 8-6-2020 for placement on the ballot, seconded by Trustee Brown;

Discussion:

Trustee Vavrik stated he was “on the fence” about asking the voters to approve a “home rule” designation for Savoy. He stated that the Champaign County Board is having problems now.

Trustee Niccum stated he had been working with IML for several years to endorse home rule for certain municipalities and they can’t get it through because of the City of Chicago bureaucracy. Niccum also stated if Savoy were home rule, Savoy could recoup a gasoline tax of .03 cents per gallon which would amount to \$200,000-\$300,000 per year that could be used for infrastructure upgrades in Savoy.

Trustee Brown stated he was not concerned about how this Board would handle a home rule designation, but it would be future boards he was concerned about. Also, he was in favor of letting the Savoy voters decide if they want home rule and he did believe asking for home rule for just one issue, like the gas tax, was enough for the home rule designation.

Trustee Mangian stated she agreed with Trustee Brown to let the Savoy voters decide.

Trustee Shonkwiler questioned if Savoy were to put this matter as a referendum on the ballot, could the Board stipulate its only function would be for MFT.

President Dykstra stated she was warning the Trustees that she believes there will be vigorous opposition to the home rule designation. Also, once a municipality has the home rule designation, it is helping the next Board of Trustees. So, it would be best to just ask for a tax for MFT. Trustee Vavrik asked if it was possible to just have a referendum on MFT or a ballot initiative equal to Champaign. Trustee Niccum stated no.

Vote on to approve Staff to prepare an ordinance/resolution on “Home Rule” status for Savoy to put on a referendum.

By Trustee vote:

Brown, no

Mangian, yes

Niccum, yes

Ruggieri, absent

Shonkwiler, yes

Vavrik, yes

Motion carried

3. ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the open and public Board of Trustees Study Session meeting, Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/S/ Billie Jean Krueger

Billie Jean Krueger, Village Clerk

This meeting was recorded.

Minutes approved this 5th day of August, 2020.

/S/ Billie Jean Krueger